

that, even though the House has not acted, on the assumption that the House will act on that the week we return and we would probably be able to take up that House bill or it would be here before we complete it. However, it is hard to say now if that will be accomplished or not. We don't know that the House will have it done by Tuesday of next week or Wednesday of the week we come back.

I ask consent that we go to the Defense appropriations bill which was reported out of the Appropriations Committee on May 18 by unanimous vote of all the members of the Appropriations Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I object again for two reasons: First, the bill is not here; and, second, because we have not taken up the authorization bill and our colleagues have indicated that is a very important matter. We always attempt to deal with the authorization requirements prior to the time we deal with the appropriations requirements. This unanimous consent request does not allow for that.

I ask the majority leader what is wrong with taking up the one appropriations bill that has been sent here by the House. I note that on May 22 the Transportation appropriations bill was received from the House. It is pending in the Senate.

I won't ask unanimous consent, but I ask the majority leader whether his intention would be to take up the one House-passed bill that is here. Clearly, we would have no objections to doing that. It is important we make the most use of our time. Because the House-passed appropriations bill having to do with transportation is already here, I am curious as to why we have chosen not to take it up until now and why we wouldn't take it up just as soon as we come back.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I certainly agree. I think we should take it up as soon as we can. It has come over from the House, but it has not been reported, I don't believe, from the subcommittee or the full committee here.

I asked the chairman of the subcommittee, Senator SHELBY, why that is the case—and, by the way, immediately urged him to do it as quickly as he can—and I understand it was because Senator LAUTENBERG of New Jersey had wanted another hearing at the subcommittee level before they marked it up, and that they were going to need, in the next few days, to get it done.

Hopefully, they will report that bill out by Wednesday or Thursday of the week we return and we will be able to go to that; either if we got it Thursday, we could do it Thursday or Friday, or we could go do it the first thing next week. I am pushing the committee to act on it. I don't know what the out-

standing issue is, but I understand they wanted to have one more committee hearing for some reason.

Let me provide a little incentive to all sides to work together on the Defense appropriations bill. I will not now move to proceed to it, but I will move to proceed to that bill when we reconvene after the recess, and have a vote, if necessary, on proceeding to the Defense appropriations bill.

But over the next 10 days, we have time to work between the authorizers and the appropriators and everybody who has a concern about that bill, and hopefully something can be worked out so we can proceed on the authorization bill, and then, of course, immediately go to the appropriations bill after that.

If we cannot get something worked out over the recess period or agree on some sort of schedule, I will have no alternative at that point but to move to proceed to the DOD appropriations bill. I prefer to have something we have worked out between the authorizers and the appropriators and the Democratic leadership and the Republican leadership so we can make good use of our time.

We do have 4 weeks in the month of June when we come back. We have a lot of work we need to do. We need to move at least half a dozen appropriations bills during the month of June. We need to take a look at the House-passed China trade status bill, see how much time we would need on the floor, and try to get some idea of what amendments might be offered.

It would not be my intent to try to limit amendments on the China permanent trade status bill. I think we should say right from the beginning if we add any new material to it, any new amendments or language, it would have to go back to conference with the House and then vote again in the House and Senate. That may be OK, but I want to take a little time when we come back and see if we can work through the time that would be required, when would be the first time to take it up, and what amendments might be in the offing from both sides of the aisle. Our staffs will be working on that during the recess. Plus, we could have other issues.

I mentioned the conference report and other bills that are pending, so we are going to have to have a full month in June. I also remind my colleagues that in July—I was looking at the calendar last night and was really a little bit chagrined to realize we only will have 3 weeks between the Fourth of July recess and the conventions in August.

I had really thought we would have four; if we could do five or six appropriations bills in that window. So we really are under pressure, with the 7 weeks we have in the summer, to move 11 appropriations bills. That is going to be a monumental task, and it is going

to take work with each other on both sides of the aisle. I know that. We cannot move it without everybody giving it a shot. But it makes it awfully hard for us to be doing other issues, other than the China trade bill, which we hope to get worked in there at some point.

With that, I think we have talked enough about schedule. I hope we can come to some agreements over the next 10 days as to exactly how we will proceed the first week we are back.

I yield the floor.

COMMEMORATING FREE ELECTIONS IN CROATIA

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today I join with my colleagues, Senators FEINGOLD, HUTCHISON, ABRAHAM, and LIEBERMAN, who will introduce a resolution congratulating the people of Croatia on their successful parliamentary and presidential elections, the peaceful transition of power, and new initiatives for reform. In addition to congratulating the people of Croatia, the resolution expresses U.S. support for their progress and encourages Croatian participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace. One day, I hope that we will be expressing our support for Croatia, and other nations with similar democratic inclination, as members of NATO itself.

The Balkan nations embracing democracy must be supported at every opportunity available because the government could so easily have taken the other path. The leaders of Croatia could have chosen to repress popular involvement and other fundamental rights of democracy, but instead have chosen the harder but correct path of working through discourse, debate, and democracy. Because we have also been through these trials as a nation, I hope that the American people will watch closely the progress of the Croatian people and will support their path to freedom, stability, and peace.

The most important benefit to come out of this election will be the resolution of Croatia's domestic difficulties. Through the successful election, the Croatian people have taken the reins of control. In addition to the power instilled by this self-determination, the Croatian people are now spurred to take up the mission of reform that should further improve their government. Among the stated goals of President Mesic are the reintroduction of Serbian refugees to the homes they left behind, reform of the privatization system that has faced serious corruption allegations, and support for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. These improvements would certainly go far to legitimize the new Administration in the view of the international community, but more importantly, in the eyes of the Croatian people. President Mesic's

continued efforts on these fronts will show its people that their new government takes seriously the need for honesty and accountability.

As the government wins the support of its people, I am also encouraged by the efforts of the new Administration to get involved with the European community. In such a volatile region, a nation uniting the many groups will be the key to fostering a stable political and economic atmosphere. Part of the victory of democracy in Croatia has been the new spirit of regional harmony that I hope will spread to its neighbors. Peace in the Balkan nations will only come with honest attempts to live with differences, and Croatia will be a leader in the efforts for peace there.

In addition to better conditions in the Balkans, democracy will encourage the involvement of other foreign nations. Just two weeks ago, Croatian President Stipe Mesic met with French President Jacques Chirac to discuss an agreement on stabilization and association, as well as the Croatian entrance to the NATO Partnership for Peace. The resolution I am supporting today suggests U.S. support for the addition of Croatia in the partnership, and I am happy to inform my colleagues that the nations of NATO have announced that Croatia will become a full member of the Partnership for Peace program today. This is truly a great accomplishment, and it affirms the commitment of all NATO allies to help Croatia in its chosen path.

In addition to my appreciation for the democratic and international progress of the Croatian people, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the work of the Croatian American Association in bringing this subject to my attention and to the attention of the American people. The Croatian American community has worked tirelessly to create bonds of friendship between our two nations, and I hope that as Croatia becomes more democratic and involved in worldwide political affairs that we, as Americans, will continue to support them.

I hope that this resolution will be an additional bond between two nations that democratic tenets have already joined.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of Oregon). The majority leader.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 3244

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand H.R. 3244 is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3244) to combat trafficking of persons, especially into the sex trade, slav-

ery, and slavery-like conditions in the United States.

Mr. LOTT. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

AUTHORIZING THE 2000 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN TO BE RUN THROUGH THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 280, and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 280) authorizing the 2000 District Of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run to be run through the Capitol Grounds.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements appear in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 280) was agreed to.

NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 302, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 302) calling on the people of the United States to observe a National Moment of Remembrance to honor the men and women of the United States who died in pursuit of freedom and peace.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I rise to offer my support for passage of H. Con. Res. 302, a resolution proclaiming a National Moment of Remembrance.

As we gather with family and friends in observance of Memorial Day, I urge all Americans to take time to reflect upon the day's true meaning. Whether we attend a public observance, mark a grave, or simply bow our heads in quiet reflection, all Americans should remember to honor those who by serving, put their faith and trust in the ideals for which our nation stands.

The legislation we are about to pass will establish a National Moment of Remembrance at 3:00 local time on Memorial Day. At that time, I am hopeful all Americans will join together in recognition of those men and women who have died in military service of our nation.

Finally, I thank my colleague from Nebraska, Senator HAGEL, and Carmella LaSpada of No Greater Love for their efforts in making the National Moment of Remembrance a reality.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and finally any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 302) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE CRIMES AND ABUSES COMMITTED AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 315, submitted earlier by Senator HELMS for himself and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

A resolution (S. Res. 315) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the crimes and abuses committed against the people of Sierra Leone by the Revolutionary United Front, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, Sierra Leone is a failed state and merely hoping that a few new Bangladeshi or Indian peacekeepers will turn the situation around is irresponsible. The President should bear this in mind as he decides U.S. policy in Sierra Leone—especially the extent of U.S. military involvement there or support for a U.N. or regional peacekeeping or peace-making operation.

All of us—100 Senators—must remind ourselves that the rebels in Sierra Leone—the Revolutionary United Front (RUF)—cannot be dealt with as if it were a political party. The Revolutionary United Front has terrorized the population of Sierra Leone by mutilating their enemies—and innocent civilians, including women and children—by chopping off their ears, noses, hands, arms, and legs.

At some point the downtrodden people of Sierra Leone must find a way to hold their own leadership responsible. But it's impossible to overlook the fact that Liberian President Charles Taylor provides succor to the sadistic Revolutionary United Front.